COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 5, and 22-32 without prejudice. Please rewrite claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, and 16 as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) In a mobile station adapted for slotted operation on a current wireless communications system, a method for acquiring a wireless communications system comprising the steps of:

during a slot-off period, analyzing a signal received on a channel associated with a candidate communications system;

selecting a set of candidate communications systems, wherein the step of analyzing is repeated for each candidate communications system in the set, and wherein, for each candidate communications system in the set, the step of analyzing comprises the steps of:

switching to a channel associated with the candidate communications system; and

testing the received signal

wherein, if the time remaining in the current slot-off period is insufficient to complete the steps of switching and testing for the current candidate communications system, the mobile station returns to the current communications system until a subsequent slot-off period;

wherein the step of analyzing is resumed during a subsequent slot-off period;

determining, based on the analysis of the received signal, whether the candidate communications system is likely to be available for acquisition by the mobile station; and

attempting to acquire the candidate communications system if it is determined that the candidate communications system is likely to be available for acquisition.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 1 wherein, for each candidate communications system in the set, the steps of switching and testing are completed during a single slot-off period.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of analyzing terminates when a predetermined condition is satisfied.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the step of analyzing terminates when a predetermined number of received signals satisfy predetermined testing criteria.

8. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 wherein each candidate communications system is more desirable than the current communications system.

9. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 wherein the mobile station includes a table of known communications systems, each known communications system having a relative desirability, and wherein the set of candidate communications systems is selected from the table of known communications systems, and

wherein each candidate communications system in the set has a relative desirability that is greater than the current communications system.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein a geographic region for each communications system is stored in the table of known communications systems and wherein the set of candidate communications systems includes only known communications systems in the same geographic region as the current communications system.

11. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 1 wherein the set of candidate communications systems includes at least one digital communications system and at least one analog communications system.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of analyzing comprises the step of measuring the strength of the received signal.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the candidate communications system is expected to be available if the measured strength of the received signal exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of selecting a set of candidate communications systems, wherein the steps of analyzing and determining are repeated for each candidate communications system in the set.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein the step of attempting to acquire is performed for each candidate communications system that has a corresponding measured signal strength that exceeds the predetermined threshold value, until a candidate communications system is acquired or the candidate communications systems are exhausted.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The method of Claim 15~~ In a mobile station adapted for slotted operation on a current wireless communications system, a method for acquiring a wireless communications system comprising the steps of:

during a slot-off period, analyzing a signal received on a channel associated with a candidate communications system, wherein the step of analyzing comprises the step of measuring the strength of the received signal;

determining, based on the analysis of the received signal, whether the candidate communications system is likely to be available for acquisition by the mobile station, wherein the candidate communications system is expected to be available if the measured strength of the received signal exceeds a predetermined threshold value;

selecting a set of candidate communications systems, wherein the steps of analyzing and determining are repeated for each candidate communications system in the set; and

attempting to acquire the candidate communications system if it is determined that the candidate communications system is likely to be available for acquisition, wherein the step of attempting to acquire is performed for each candidate communications system that has a corresponding measured signal strength that exceeds the predetermined threshold value, until a candidate communications system is acquired or the candidate communications systems are exhausted; and

wherein the step of determining comprises the step of sorting the candidate communications systems in order of measured strength, the sorted order defining the order of attempted acquisition.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 15 wherein the step of determining comprises the step of sorting the candidate communications systems in order of desirability, the sorted order

defining the order of attempted acquisition.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of analyzing comprises the step of calculating a ratio Ec/Io of the received signal.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the candidate communications system is expected to be available if the calculated ratio Ec/Io exceeds a predetermined threshold value.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of analyzing comprises the step of attempting to decode the received signal.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of analyzing comprises the step of locating a SID and a NID in the received signal, and wherein the step of determining comprises the step of verifying that the located SID and NID match a SID and NID of the candidate communications system.

Claims 22-32. (Cancelled)